



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Reentry Services Division

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Washington, DC 20534

September 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM:

*David Paul*  
David Paul, Assistant Director  
Reentry Services Division

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Chapel Update

This memorandum is to provide guidance on the re-opening of institutional chapels. Current Phase 9 guidance requires institutions to program when possible. With the issuance of this guidance, facilities will begin to offer religious worship and/or programming in the chapels.

Every effort must be made to allow the gathering of inmates in the housing units, chapels and/or areas identified with social distancing and safety measures implemented. When appropriate, particularly for important religious observances, inmates from different units may be allowed to gather during religious services.

Chapel programming should be commensurate with other local programming levels of other disciplines. Institutional chaplains should work with their Executive Staff on developing a phased approach of opening the chapels for inmate use. Rotating access for the inmate faith groups will be necessary to ensure religious equitability.

Please direct any questions to  
Administrator.

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Chaplaincy